

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims**

Claims 1-14 (cancelled).

Claim 15 (new): A device for thermal waste water purification with a container through which the waste water flows, the device comprising:

at least one flow guide means which, alternately in parallel as overflow weir and as underflow weir, is arranged to form a chamber for a meander-shaped guide of the waste water in the container; and

at least one heating means, which is arranged between two flow guide means in a lower part of the chamber of the container at the beginning of a rising flow;

wherein the device is configured to produce a supported flow in the chamber and to set to a predetermined temperature.

Claim 16 (new): The device according to claim 15, wherein the flow guide means is formed by a wall, around which the waste water is directed.

Claim 17 (new): The device according to claim 15, wherein the heating means has a device through which steam flows.

Claim 18 (new): The device according to claim 15, wherein the heating means has electric heating.

Claim 19 (new): The device according to claim 15, wherein the container is cylindrical, whereby the longitudinal axis is horizontal.

Claim 20 (new): The device according to claim 15, wherein the container has, on a top side, a collecting pipe for discharging gases.

Claim 21 (new): A device for thermal waste water purification, wherein at least two devices according to claim 15 are connected in series.

Claim 22 (new): A method for thermal waste water purification of melamine-containing waste water, using a device with a container through which waste water flows; wherein the device includes at least one flow guide means which, alternately in parallel as overflow weir and as underflow weir, is arranged to form a chamber for a meander-shaped guide of the waste water in the container, and at least one heating means, which is arranged between two flow guide means in a lower part of the chamber of the container at the beginning of a rising flow; the method comprising the steps of:

producing a supported flow in the chamber; and  
setting to a predetermined temperature;  
wherein the temperature in the device is greater than 190°C.

Claim 23 (new): The method according to claim 22, wherein the temperature in the device lies in the range of 220°C. to 230°C.

Claim 24 (new): The method according to claim 22, wherein the pressure in the device is between 30 and 100 bar.

Claim 25 (new): The method according to claim 22, wherein the pressure in the device is between 30 and 60 bar.

Claim 26 (new): The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of preheating the waste water at least one before the hydrolyser.

Claim 27 (new): The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of preheating the supply to the hydrolyser by a heat exchanger, which is heated in the counter flow with the output flow of the hydrolyser.

Application No. Not Yet Assigned  
Paper Dated: December 23, 2004  
In Reply to USPTO Correspondence of N/A  
Attorney Docket No. 4385-045944

Customer No. 28289

Claim 28 (new): The method according to claim 22, further comprising the step of guiding the waste water through the hydrolyser to a column, whereby the head product of the column is directed to a gas washer.

Claim 29 (new): The device according to claim 16, wherein the wall is formed by a screen base.

Claim 30 (new): The device according to claim 17, wherein the steam flows through a tube bank.